



First Southern Baptist Church

... because of Christ

132 E. Street - Waterford, CA 95386 - 209-874-1812

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

To Peter Ramirez, Bill Agee, Bart Barber and the Executive Committee

I am writing to let you know that on Sunday Evening, August 14th, 2022 the Members of the First Southern Baptist Church of Waterford, CA voted unanimously to remove ourselves from affiliation & cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The issues for us are numerous but I will summarize some of them right here:

- Acceptance of Critical Race Theory/Social Justice thinking at the Seminaries & Convention,
- Movement toward women pastors,
- Lifeway Resources selling items antithetical to Scripture,
- Misuse of Funds by NAMB and other entities,
- Firing of Conservative Professors from SBC Seminaries,
- The election of the last three SBC Presidents,
- The ERLC and its softening toward Homosexuality & Abortion,
- Plagiarism by the last president and no real strong rebukes by the six seminary presidents,
- The attitude of "The Stage" at the last two conventions,
- The necessity to join the CBN to find fellowship & identification,
- That idea of considering the formation of a committee to determine what "Pastor" means,
- A high favorability and push toward pragmatism and
- A lack of trust in the SUFFICIENCY of Scripture.

It has become embarrassing for me to say that I'm a member of the Southern Baptist Convention and that the church I pastor is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. This fact, in addition to the summary issues stated above, have led us to disassociate from the SBC.

A member of another SBC church said to their Pastor, "we didn't leave the SBC, the SBC left us." A member of my congregation said essentially the same thing at our business meeting. In 2 Corinthians 6 Paul says: 14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness 15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever 16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 17"Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. 18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me." Says the Lord Almighty.

As a church body, devoted to the Lord and His Word, we are compelled to separate from those who do not hold to such sacredness of Scripture and the application of the whole body of truth set forth by God. We believe this is the direction the SBC is headed and that God has given it over to its current desires.

Pastor Gregory Perkins and the Members of the First Southern Baptist Church of Waterford, CA